

CHARLIE DICKENS' WILL.

There are many people who are by no means inclined to join in the general worship of Charles Dickens; even though enterprising publishers continually sound his fame. Many of the characters he describes are such as respectable people would prefer not to know; his representations of religion are defective, his family life was not the most happy, and his use of stimulants probably shortened his days. Nevertheless all must acknowledge the keenness of his intellect, and the solemn conclusions of such a man should have weight. The following quotation is from his last will and testament:

"I direct that my name be inscribed in plain English letters on my tomb. I conjure my friends on no account to make me the subject of any monument, memorial, or testimonial whatever. I rest my claim to the remembrance of my country upon my published works; and to the remembrance of my friends upon their experience of me, in addition thereto. *I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*; and I exhort my dear children bravely to try to guide themselves by the teaching of the New Testament in its expressed spirit, and to put no faith in any man's new construction of its letter here or there."—*The Safeguard*.

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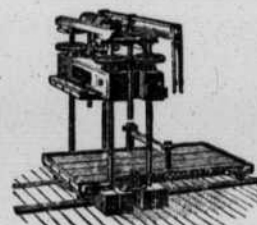
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